

# CITY OF HOMER 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



# City of Homer 2008 Annual Report

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*Cover photo subjects clockwise from top left: Harbor seal, Mayor Jim Hornaday and City Manager Walt Wrede, Sherry Bess, Steve Boyle, Melissa Jacobsen (foreground) and Jo Johnson, Representative Paul Seaton, Steve Bambakidis and daughter Ella, Homer Volunteer Fire Department members and Chief Bob Painter (in white shirt), Question of the Week collection can, Dave Bolt. Center photo: Homer Small Boat Harbor.*

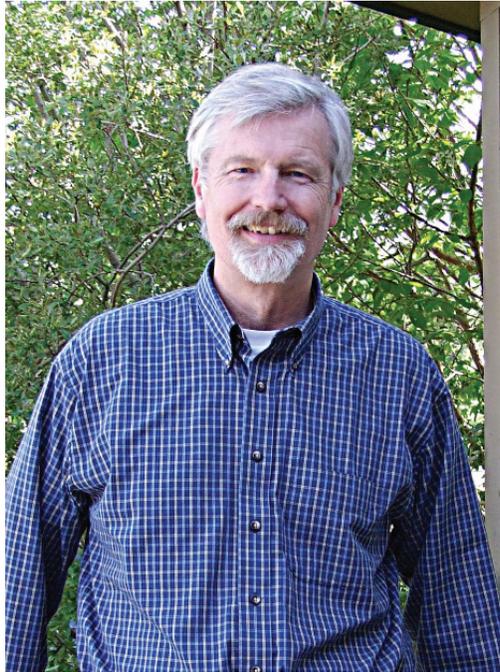
# Manager's Message

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2008 proved to be another rewarding year for the City of Homer. The City government remains in a fiscally sound and stable position. The FY 2008 audit shows that overall assets exceeded liabilities by \$122,451,000. The combined fund balance for governmental funds is \$12,148,000; an increase of \$1,853,000. This increase is driven largely by the passage of SB 125 which essentially wrote off much of the City's unfunded PERS liability. The General Fund had a balance on December 31, 2008 of \$4,600,000; \$3,825,000 of which is unrestricted. Overall debt at the end of the year was \$14,255,000 which is a reduction of \$929,000 from the previous year. The City retired all of its general obligation debt in 2008. The City departments have done an excellent job of keeping expenses within approved budgets and the Council has implemented conservative and prudent fiscal policies.

Although the City was in an enviable financial position at the end of 2008, 2009 may prove to be more challenging. The economy overall was slowing at the end of the year which may mean reductions in sales and property tax revenues. In addition, the voters approved a sales tax exemption for unprocessed foods and the full impact of that will not be known until the end of 2009. The Finance Department projects that this exemption may mean a reduction in revenues of approximately \$800,000 and the FY 2009 budget adopted at the end of the year reflected that. The Water and Sewer and Port and Harbor enterprise funds are fiscally sound but managers of both continue to struggle to find ways to increase customers and revenue without increasing fees. Both funds have been impacted by rapidly rising operations and maintenance costs and at the same time, strong political pressure to keep fees down.

The City has numerous on-going capital projects and many of them experienced significant progress or milestones in 2008. The design of the new \$11.5 million water treatment plant was completed in 2007 and



construction began in 2008. The plant is projected to be operational in spring 2009.

The City continued to work with state and federal officials in 2008 to find ways to gain access to a \$2 million "earmark" that was originally intended to cover engineering, design, and permitting for the Deep Water Dock expansion. The City recently requested that the congressional delegation seek to reappropriate the funds directly to the City. Further progress is anticipated in 2009.

This year marked Year 3 of a feasibility study for an expanded boat harbor. The feasibility study is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the cost is being shared by the Corps, the State of Alaska, and the City. Significant progress was made on a number of other capital projects including the Spit Trail, Main Street upgrades, the Reber Trail, and the Spit Trail parking lot expansion.

The City of Homer continues to strive to become as efficient, productive, and responsive to the needs of its residents as possible. The City's success in 2008 was due in large part to the diligence and hard work of the Mayor, the City Council, the volunteers on boards and commissions, an active and engaged citizenry, and dedicated public employees.

The 2008 Annual Report contains a broad overview of the financial activities of the City including its enterprise funds and Capital Improvement Program. The report also contains departmental reports on goals and accomplishments. I believe that a review of this year's annual report will confirm that the City government is functioning at a high level, that its fiscal policies are sound, and that Homer continues to be a very attractive place to live and do business.

# Mayor and City Council

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The City of Homer is a First Class Municipality with an elected mayor and city council. The mayor is elected to serve a 2-year term. City Council members serve staggered 3-year terms. Expiration of the term for each member is noted in parentheses in the group photo below.

In the October 2008 municipal election, Barbara Howard and Bryan Zak were elected to the City Council.



The Mayor and City Council rely on the City Attorney for legal advice. In 2008, Gordon Tans (right) of the law firm Perkins Coie retired after 19 years as Homer’s City Attorney. Tom Klinkner (left) of Birch, Horton, Bittner and Cherot became the new City Attorney in August.



Above: Mayor Jim Hornaday presents a “key to the city” to Governor Sarah Palin at an event in Homer in June 2008.



Seated, left to right: Beth Wythe (10), Mayor Jim Hornaday (10), Barbara Howard (11). Standing: Francie Roberts (09), David Lewis (11), Dennis Novak (09), City Manager Walt Wrede, Bryan Zak (10), City Clerk Jo Johnson.

# City Advisory Bodies

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The Mayor, City Council, and City employees are grateful to the many local citizens who volunteer their time to serve on advisory boards and short-term committees.

The following individuals contributed hundreds of hours in 2008 to help ensure a high quality of life in Homer now and in the future. (Names represent membership as of October 2008.)

## Library Advisory Board

Michael Hawfield	Nancy Lord
Flo Larson	Eileen Faulkner
Kyra Wagner	Bette Seaman
Linda Martin	

## Parks & Recreation Commission

Lou Stewart	Mimi Tolva
Annie McGreenery	Teena Garay
Jessica Tenhoff	Bumppo Bremicker

## Planning Commission

Ray Kranich	Jeff Sin
Sharon Minsch	Caroline Storm
Rick Foster	Lloyd Moore

## Port & Harbor Commission

Otto Kilcher	Kevin Hogan
Robert Hartley	Catherine Ulmer
Glen Carroll	John Velsko
Sean Martin	
Dave Vanderbrink and Brantley Edens (lifetime honorary members)	

## Economic Development Commission

Kevin Hogan	Stephen Scarpitta
Dean Ravin	Shelly Erickson
Micheal Neece	

## Transportation Advisory Committee

Kurt Marquardt	Francie Roberts
Stephen Smith	John Velsko

## Public Arts Committee

Gaye Wolfe	Dave Anderson
Trina Fellows	Angie Newby
Karin Marks	Hope Finkelstein



Public Arts Committee members Gaye Wolfe and Angie Newby pose in front of the wall mural on Pioneer Avenue. The mural, which depicts Homer performing artists, was updated in 2008 with input from the Public Arts Committee.

# 2008 City Workforce

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Names of department heads appear first in each category.

## City Manager's Office

Walt Wrede	Steve Bambakidis
Dru Corbin	Sheri Hobbs
Anne Marie Holen	Mike Illg
Tomasz Sulczynski	

## City Clerk's Office

Jo Johnson	Melissa Jacobsen
Renee Krause	Rachel Tussey

## Finance

Regina Harville	Jo Earls
Lydia Lockard	Michele McCandlish
Laurie Moore	Joanne Perret
Lori Sorrows	Julie Swisher

## Library

Helen Hill	Amy Gordon
Jolee Ellis	Katherine George
Susan Gibson	Kathleen Pankratz
Teresa Sundmark	Christian Black
Debra Waldorf	

## Police Department

Mark Robl	Cheryl Bemowski
John Browning	Mike Swearingen
Roger Cornett	Alex Douthit
Mike Eastham	Jona Focht
Erin Pealater	Will Hutt
Mark Kruzick	Lary Kuhns
Stacy Luck	Jim Knott
Lynn Haught	Dana Phillips
Randy Rosencrans	Cory Rupe
David Shealy	Steve Smith
Ed Stading	Wayne Stanley
Janie Stewart	Chuck Thorsrud
Barth Troughton	Casey Moss
Paul Clark	

## Port & Harbor

Bryan Hawkins	John Bacher
Matt Clarke	Elton Anderson
Daniel Cornelius	Chris Dabney
Lisa Ellington	Aaron Glidden
Don Huffnagle	Bonnie Judge
Julia Martin	George Tyrer
Mark Whaley	

## Fire Department

Robert Painter	Steve Boyle
Elaine Grabowski	Dan Miotke
Dean Thoemke	Tim Yarbrough

## Volunteer Firefighters/EMTs

Luzma Alcaraz	Katie Bauer
Dr. Bill Bell	Phillip Boyle
Marti Christensen	Bob Ciccarella
Jesse Classen	John Cox
Jose Diaz	Samantha Cunningham
Candy Edwards	Richard Everett
Mary Griswold	Matt Hockema
Carey James	Michael Jette
Pat Johnson	Morgan Jones
Maynard Kauffman	Olga Kuzmin
Cary Long	Genny Lyda
Michael Macaluso	Mary McBurney
Sadie Mumma	Trevor Mumma
Abe Nowels	Paul Pellegrini
Martin Renner	Zina Reutov
Josephine Ryan	Matt Sabelman
Matt Schneyer	Terry Sumption
Gary Thomas	Dan Turner
Doug Van Patten	Dylan Weiser

## Public Works

Carey Meyer	Zach Brown
John Berelc	David Bolt
Rusty Cheney	Harlon Engebretsen
Ken Frazier	Barbara Garcia
Dan Gardner	Richard Gibson
Tamara Hagerty	Julie Harris
Don Henry	Jim Hobbs
Mitch Hrachiar	Joe Young
Jan Jonker	Richard Klopp
Bob Kosiorek	Jerry Lawver
Steve Martin	Brian McCarthy
Jim Nelson	Dan Olsen
Terry Overton	Gary Richardson
Mike Riley	Daniel Smith
Dave Welty	Levi Stradling
John Wythe	Clint Rockett
Pike Ainsworth	Ryan Davis

## Planning

Rick Abboud	Julie Engebretsen
Dotti Harness	Shelly Rosencrans

# City Manager's Office

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The City Manager's Office is housed at City Hall and includes the City Manager, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Director, and Special Projects Coordinator. The Systems Manager, Assistant Systems Manager, and Community Schools Coordinator are also considered part of the City Manager's Office.

The Homer City Manager serves as chief administrative officer of the City and is responsible for the administration of all City services. Walt Wrede has served as City Manager since February 2003.

The City Manager works closely with the Mayor and City Council, department heads, and other community leaders to identify and accomplish projects that are in the best interest of the community and to solve problems that might come up. He is responsible for overall budget preparation and shares responsibility with the Mayor and Council for articulating the City's needs to state and federal officials to secure funding for City projects and programs.

During 2008, Administrative Assistant Dru Corbin continued to assist with many of the administrative duties associated with the City Manager's office. In addition, she staffed the Public Arts Committee and the Alaska Statehood Anniversary Committee, tasked with planning events in Homer to celebrate 50 years of statehood. Dru also organized and staffed Sister City meetings which included planning for a Teshio Japanese delegation to visit Homer in 2009.



*Dru Corbin filled the role of Administrative Assistant in the City Manager's Office in 2008. She also staffed the Public Arts Committee.*

Sheri Hobbs has been Personnel Director for the City of Homer since 1994. Her work in personnel ranges from advertising positions and processing applications to maintaining personnel records, administering the health and life insurance programs, and producing the employee newsletter. She assists the City Manager, directors, and employees by providing information regarding personnel policies and benefit information. Sheri is also the Airport Terminal manager, which involves negotiating and administering leases and other revenue generating programs at the airport.

The City of Homer assumed responsibility for the Homer Community Schools Program in fall 2006. Michael Illg coordinates the program with administrative oversight from Sheri Hobbs. In 2008, Community Schools offered more than 50 classes with an average of 500 participants per season for the spring, summer, fall, and winter programs. Several community events were also held through Community Schools that drew more than 1,000 total participants. Community Schools has 37 contract instructors and 30 volunteer instructors who have dedicated more than 2,100 volunteer hours to the program.

Special Projects Coordinator Anne Marie Holen is responsible for producing the Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Report, and seeks funding for City projects through grantwriting and the preparation of legislative request materials. In 2008, Anne Marie also provided staff support to the Economic Development Commission, served on the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District board of directors, and assisted with implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Systems Manager Steve Bambakidis is responsible for troubleshooting and maintenance of 16 network servers and more than 100 desktop computers. He maintains the City's website as well as specialized automated systems for the Police, Fire, and Public Works departments. In 2008, the Systems staff expanded with the addition of a part time assistant, Tomasz Sulczynski. Accomplishments included setting up VPN for work-from-home scenarios, upgrading the phone system to allow direct number dialing from outside, eliminating several analog phone lines, and consolidating many phone lines into a digital T-1 circuit coming into City Hall.

# City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk is an official of the City of Homer, appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council. Jo Johnson was Homer's City Clerk in 2008. Melissa Jacobsen held the position of Deputy City Clerk II, Renee Krause was Deputy City Clerk I, and Rachel Tussey was the part-time Clerical Assistant in 2008.

The City Clerk attends meetings of the Homer City Council and keeps the journal for the Council and its advisory bodies. The Deputy City Clerks attend meetings of the advisory bodies and ensure that regulations for public meetings are met. In 2008, staff from the City Clerk's Office attended 145 meetings. In addition, they helped prepare 62 draft ordinances, 124 resolutions, and 159 memoranda; and processed 205 public records requests.

The Clerk's Office manages municipal records and makes them available to the public, provides for codification of ordinances and authenticates or certifies records, prepares agendas and packets for the governing body and advisory bodies as assigned, administers oaths of office, acts as the parliamentary advisor to the City Council and advisory commissions, and performs other duties required by law.

City Clerk Jo Johnson is a Certified Municipal Clerk and National Parliamentarian. Deputy City Clerk II Melissa Jacobsen obtained her Municipal Clerk certification in 2008 and is a National Parliamentarian. Deputy City Clerk I Renee Krause completed her first year at the Northwest Clerks Institute to gain accreditation points toward certification as a municipal clerk.

The City Clerk's Office records a weekly informational segment aired on public radio station KBBI and maintains informational kiosks in five locations within the community: Captain's Coffee Roasting Company, the Harbormaster's Office, Kachemak Gear Shed, Pudgy's Meat and Groceries, and City Hall. The Clerk's

Office also produces and distributes a quarterly newsletter for City residents and maintains a website (<http://clerk.ci.homer.ak.us>) which contains a wealth of information, including meeting agendas and minutes.

The Clerk's Office administers a "Question of the Week" to solicit additional input from citizens anonymously. The question is posted on the Internet and also in various locations around town, with paper, pens, and cans for collecting answers. Responses are provided in the Council packets and posted on the Clerk's website.

The City Clerk administers all municipal elections and assists with borough and state elections. A Special Election was held on March 25, 2008 with a proposition for the

Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the Construction of a New City Hall and Town Square (Plaza) and Related Capital Improvements. The proposition failed with 66% of voters in opposition.

A regular election was held on October 7, 2008 to elect the Mayor and three City Council members. James C. (Jim) Hornaday was reelected to the office of Mayor, and Barbara Howard, David Lewis, and Bryan Zak were elected to the City Council. Mrs. Howard and Mr. Lewis were elected to 3-year terms, replacing Mike Heimbuch and Matt Shadle. Mr. Zak was elected to a 2-year term to fill the seat vacated by Lane Chesley. The Clerk's Office also assisted with the borough election held the same day.

The Clerks assisted absentee voters for the August 26, 2008 State Primary Election and the November 4, 2008 General Election which included candidates for United States President, Senate, and House of Representatives. For the 2-week period prior to these two elections, the Clerk's Office assisted a record number of 1,612 absentee voters.



*Clerical Assistant Rachel Tussey provides a citizen with absentee voting forms prior to the November 4 general election.*

# Finance Department

The City of Homer Finance Department provides overall administration of the financial activities of the City. The Finance Department is proud to have received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 23 consecutive years.

The Finance Department

- administers all accounting functions related to accounts payable and receivable, purchasing, payroll, budget, reception, utility, port, special assessment, ambulance billings, capital projects, leases, investments, and grant reporting.
- provides accounting services for all City departments.
- coordinates the development of the annual budget with department heads and the presentation of the budget to Council.
- synchronizes the annual audit and audits completed by granting agencies, and ensures that all documents are provided for the utilization of auditors in an easy-to-follow manner.
- implements internal controls for all accounting practices.

A number of personnel changes took place in 2008 within the Finance Department, beginning with the hire of Lydia Lockard as part-time Accounting Technician on January 2. Laurie Moore, who had worked within the department for 12 years in a variety of positions, was promoted to Accounting Supervisor in March. Michele McCandlish changed positions to

Accounting Technician IV and assumed the majority of Laurie's old job duties, with the exception of supervisory. Joanne Perret moved from Customer Service/Cashier to an Accounting Technician II, assuming most of Michele's former duties. And to complete the cycle, Julie Swisher was hired to fill the Customer Service Cashier position.

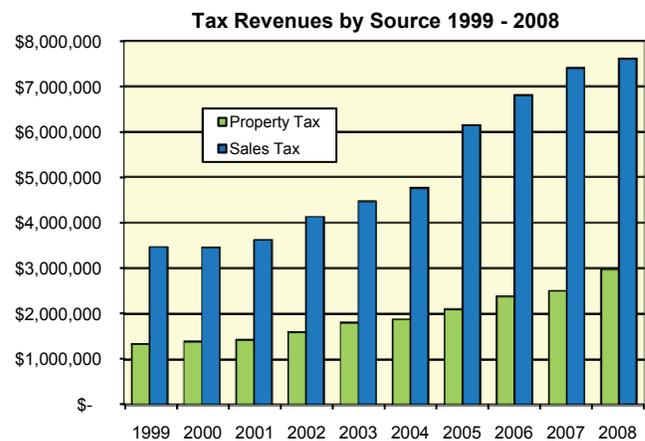
The annual audit took on a new level of complexity as the City of Homer moved closer to full compliance with the revolving regulations that govern the process. New software (CAFR2000) was purchased to assist with this transition. Unfortunately, setting up the software is a time-consuming process as each report has to be programmed individually. Once completed, however, only annual updates will be required.



Lydia Lockard and Juli Swisher joined the City of Homer Finance Department in 2008. Lydia was hired as a part-time Accounting Technician and Juli works at the City Hall front desk in the position of Customer Service Cashier.



Auditing is messy business, but not without its lighter moments. Finance Director Regina Harville (third from right) is shown here working with the audit team from Mikunda Cottrell in April 2008.



# Planning and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning Office is responsible for reviewing all conditional use permit applications as well as applications for sign permits, zoning permits, variances, and rezones. Additionally, staff facilitate long range planning efforts such as updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

Staff work with the public to resolve zoning violations and to enforce the parking and zoning codes. The Planning and Zoning Office maintains a website at <http://planning.ci.homer.ak.us/dahome.htm> to assist the public in understanding Homer's zoning code and to provide easy public access to relevant documents and web sites.

In 2008, a total of 62 zoning permits were approved, 29% fewer than the previous year. Of the 125 staff reports to the Homer Advisory Planning Commission (HAPC), 18 dealt with plats, nine concerned conditional use permits, and five addressed non-conforming status. Staff also worked with the HAPC to complete the Title 21 technical rewrite as well as amendments to the sign code and nonconforming code. Work continued on a major rewrite of the City of Homer Comprehensive Plan.

The HAPC participated in 19 regular meetings, four special meetings, and 21 work sessions for a total of



Rick Abboud was hired to fill the position of City Planner in July 2008.

44 meetings in 2008, or an average of almost four per month. One appeal was heard by the HAPC.

In July 2008, Rick Abboud was hired for the position of City Planner, replacing Beth McKibben who had accepted a position with the City and Borough of Juneau. Rick previously worked as a planner for the City of Bethel.

Planning Technician/GIS Julie Engebretsen serves as staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission. City Planner Rick Abboud is a member of the Lease Committee. Other Planning Department staff are Dotti

Harness, Planning Technician I/Code Compliance; and Shelly Rosencrans, Planning Clerk.



City of Homer planning staff worked successfully to resolve land use issues affecting the construction of a new facility on the Spit to serve as home to the Kachemak Bay Shellfish Growers cooperative.



The City of Homer Planning Office is a busy place. Here, Dotti Harness (foreground) and Julie Engebretsen (behind desk) answer questions from members of the public.

# Homer Volunteer Fire Department

## Mission Statement

*The Fire Department is committed to protecting and serving the public when members of our community are threatened by fire, accidents, and natural or man-made disasters. To accomplish this mission the Department will deliver proactive emergency risk management, emergency services, and educational prevention programs.*

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is a volunteer dependent emergency services organization providing fire protection, emergency medical services (EMS), rescue, and public education to the communities of Homer, Kachemak City, and the Kachemak Emergency Services Area. Established in 1952 and incorporated as a volunteer fire department in 1954, the Homer Volunteer Fire Department is proud of its accomplishments and level of professionalism.

The Fire Department is registered with the State Fire Marshal's Office as a Fire Department and certi-

In 2008 the Homer Volunteer Fire Department responded to a record number of calls: 599 emergency medical responses and 83 "other" calls including structure fires, wildland fires, rescue calls, and public assist calls. These calls and other department activities accounted for over 9,600 hours dedicated by members of the department in the direct delivery of services to their community or training attended to better prepare themselves for the job.

In October, the Fire Department received delivery of a new fire engine. This is the first new engine purchased by the City since the acquisition of Tanker 2 in 1989. The 2008 Custom Pumper was constructed by KME Fire Apparatus in Pennsylvania. It took approximately 10 months to construct from the ground up and was completed and ready for inspection in late September.

Fire Chief Bob Painter and Lieutenant Dan Miotke traveled to Pennsylvania to conduct a pre-delivery inspection of the truck before it was driven across the

country and placed on a car-carrier vessel in Seattle. A department Open House was held on November 8 to welcome the new addition and it was "christened" Engine 2 by Homer Mayor Jim Hornaday.

The new fire engine cost almost \$500,000 for the truck and associated equipment, is capable of pumping up to 1,500 gallons per minute from a fire hydrant, and carries 750 gallons of water in its own tank. It also has a firefighting foam system with both Class A (wood, paper, plastic etc.) and Class B (flammable liquids) capabilities. The truck has all-wheel drive and an on-board 7,000 watt generator.

Safety features for firefighters include a totally enclosed cab, lap and shoulder belts for all positions, LED lighting package, and "walk-away" airpack brackets that keep the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) secure until needed by the firefighters.

As a mostly volunteer fire department the Homer Volunteer Fire Department is completely dependent on maintaining an adequate volunteer workforce able to respond to requests for help 24 hours a day, 365



*2008 Firefighter Recruit Class*

fied by the State of Alaska Injury Prevention and EMS Office as an "Out of Hospital" Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service. With a small paid staff of three (Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Departmental Services Coordinator) and three paid Firefighter/EMT-III's, the Homer Volunteer Fire Department's main complement is made up of volunteers including basic and advanced life support trained EMTs, Firefighter I & II's, and Departmental Services volunteers.

day a year. All emergency response personnel are state certified as either a Firefighter I or an EMT-I before they become probationary members of the department. (Probationary status lasts at least six months.) Before being granted probationary status as a member of HVFD, EMTs must first successfully complete a 130 hour EMT-I course and pass State of Alaska certification exams and firefighters must complete a course of at least 180 hours and pass examinations to achieve the designation of State Certified Firefighter I.

In addition to the initial training programs, volunteers must meet minimum participation requirements to remain active in the department, including attending at least 40 percent of the calls during their assigned shifts and attending weekly drills (held each Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. until about 9:30 p.m.). Fortunately most members don't stop at the basic entry level requirements but continue on with their training in emergency medical services (EMT-II, EMT-III, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, International Trauma Life Support), rescue (Ice Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Vehicle Extrication), or firefighting (marine firefighting, aircraft firefighting, wildland firefighting) as well as attending courses on Incident Command and the National Incident Management System. Many members "cross train" and become both firefighters and EMS responders.

As active volunteers with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department, members enjoy a number of benefits provided by the City of Homer: a \$20,000 property tax exemption for their primary residence, uniforms, annual U.S. Savings Bonds, college tuition assistance, health club membership assistance, and other volunteer incentives to encourage participation. Members also achieve great satisfaction in maintaining a high degree of professionalism and being able to handle all manner of emergency in a calm and competent manner.

HVFD is a family oriented organization and welcomes a member's family in events such as company parties, potlucks, and the annual Awards Banquet. HVFD recognizes the great sacrifice that members and members' families make when they join a volunteer fire department: missed family meals, holidays, and family events as emergencies don't take notice



*Mayor Jim Hornaday christens Fire Engine 2 at an Open House ceremony on November 8. Fire Engine 2 is the first new engine acquired by the HVFD in almost 20 years.*

of season or time of day. In some cases, members' families also become active with the fire department as emergency responders or departmental services volunteers.

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department believes in taking a proactive approach to fire and injury prevention by providing public education throughout the lower Kenai Peninsula. Fire prevention activities include providing the National Fire Protection Association's Learn Not To Burn curriculum to all elementary schools in Homer. In addition, fire department personnel conduct multiple school presentations, station tours, and age appropriate prevention talks to all interested organizations and groups.

Injury prevention is also an important part of the department's public education efforts. The now world-wide drowning prevention program "Kids Don't Float" started right here in Homer through the efforts of the fire department and the local Safe Kids Coalition. This local program has been adopted by Safe Kids Worldwide and, with a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard, is being promoted as a way to reduce accidental drowning for small children.

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department makes use of a Fire Safety House to teach home fire safety, including exit drills. Groups of children can visit the Fire Safety House at its storage location on the Homer Spit or it can be moved for use at special events such as the Safe Kids Fair held each spring.

# Port and Harbor

The staff of the Homer Port and Harbor Department operates, maintains and administers the largest single basin boat harbor in Alaska, as well as the adjacent Deep Water Dock and the Pioneer Dock—and does it 24 hours a day. The Port’s website at <http://port.ci.homer.ak.us> contains information on the many facets of Port and Harbor operations including forms, maps, and rates. A new weather station was added to the Port’s website in 2008 with current air temperature, wind direction, and wind speed as measured at the Deep Water Dock.

In May 2008, Deputy Harbormaster Bryan Hawkins accepted the position of Port & Harbor Director/ Harbormaster following Steve Dean’s retirement. Matt Clarke, who had been a Harbor Officer since 2001, was promoted to Deputy Harbormaster. Elton Anderson, formerly of Public Works, was hired as the new Harbor Officer.

The Fish Dock/Ice Plant also saw some staff transitions in 2008. Ice Plant operator Wes Cannon retired and part-time employee Don Huffnagle was hired to a full-time position. A milestone was achieved by Dan Cornelius, Fish Dock Supervisor, who celebrated 30



*Bryan Hawkins stepped up to fill the position of Harbormaster (Port & Harbor Director) after Steve Dean retired in May.*

years of employment with the City. Harbor Officer II John Bacher also achieved a milestone of 20 years employment with the City in 2008.

The City-operated ice plant sold 3,776 tons of high quality flake ice to the fishing fleet and local processors in 2008. The ice was used to preserve the quality of over 16.6 million pounds of salmon, halibut, sablefish and pacific cod landed at the Port of Homer. Homer remains the number one halibut port in the world with over 9 million pounds delivered locally with an ex vessel value of approximately \$40,881,000.

The Small Boat Harbor consists of a 48 acre basin with 920 reserved slips, 6,000+ lineal feet of transient

floats, the Homer Fish Dock with 483 feet of vessel berthing on sides and face and eight cranes, the Homer Ice Plant producing up to 100 tons of flake ice per day, a wood grid and steel grid, 5-lane boat launch ramp, and barge/landing craft loading ramp.

In 2008 the City of Homer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Alaska Department of Transportation continued their feasibility study for future harbor expansion. This multi-year \$1.5 million effort will identify solutions that relieve current congestion, meet projected demand, and provide positive economic benefit to the community.

The Homer Port consists of the Deep Water Dock with 345 feet of face plus three mooring dolphins, two mooring buoys, 40' water depth (MLLW) at the face; and the Pioneer Dock with 469' face, and 40' water depth (MLLW).

Deep Water Dock activity of 173 landings represented an 8 percent increase over 2007. Customers included CISPRI oil spill response vessel *Sea Bulk Nevada* (207'), cable ship *Tyco Resolute* (460'), NOAA ships *Rainier* (231') and *Fairweather* (231'). Cargo ships *Nordon* (468') and *Sjard* (470') transported a total of 30,000 metric tons of sulfur. The new tub *Vigilant* (100') operated by Crowley Maritime and chartered by Tesoro Alaska to improve tanker safety in Cook Inlet also made use of the Deep Water Dock.

In 2008 the Pioneer Dock provided berthing for



*The Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon on the Homer Spit is one of the most popular destinations in Homer each summer. The “fishing hole” is maintained cooperatively by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and the City of Homer.*

the USCG buoy tender *Hickory*, preferential berthing for the Alaska Marine Highway ferries *Tustumena* and *Kennicott*, and the transfer of 9,136,460 gallons of fuel to the Petro Marine Terminal by K-Sea Transport tug *Pacific Challenger* and *Barge 282*. The cruise ship *Statendam* (710') also berthed at the Pioneer Dock in 2008.

The hugely popular Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon on the Homer Spit is maintained cooperatively by the City of Homer and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Thousands of anglers visit the easily-accessible “fishing hole” to take advantage of two runs of silver and one run of king salmon. Since 2002, the average number of angler days fished at the lagoon has been approximately 26,000 annually. (Angler days are calculated by counting all the people fishing in the lagoon every day and summing each daily count for the whole year.) Convenient fish cleaning tables and restrooms are maintained by the City as well as the berm surrounding the lagoon.



*Julia Martin has held the position of Administrative Supervisor in the Port & Harbor Department since May 2005.*



*Fish Dock Supervisor Dan Cornelius completed 30 years with the City of Homer in 2008.*



*A wide variety of boats made use of the Port of Homer in 2008, including (from top left) the cruise ship *Statendam*, the NOAA research vessel *Rainier*, the *Tyco Resolute* cable ship, and *Crowley Maritime* tugs *Vigilant* and *Protector*.*

# Public Works

The Department of Public Works maintains the City's roads, drainage, water distribution, and wastewater collection systems, two cemeteries, 25 parks, five trails, and camping facilities on the Homer Spit and in town for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Public Works operates and maintains the water treatment and sewer treatment plants along with 49.19 miles of wastewater collection lines, nine sewer lift stations and 42.36 miles of water distribution lines, five water storage tanks, and 22 water pressure reducing stations.

The Parks and Recreation Unit produced over 20,000 plants from seed for use in several garden spots throughout the City. In addition to maintaining the gardens around Homer, Parks & Rec staff also maintain public restrooms and port-a-potties and oversee airport parking and camp fee collection.

The Equipment Operators are responsible for grading, snow plowing and snow removal, sanding, dust control, and general road maintenance on 46.93 miles of roads and associated drainages, storm drains, and culverts within the City.

The Port Maintenance crew has the maintenance responsibility of the Deep Water Dock, Pioneer Dock, the Small Boat Harbor, the high mast lighting system, wood and steel grids and the Spit uplands along with the various Port & Harbor related equipment. They also plow the uplands roads and parking areas and manage the used oil disposal



*Levi Stradling, Line Mechanic II, helps keep City vehicles running smoothly.*

facilities.

The Motor Pool Mechanics maintain all 114 light vehicles and heavy construction equipment pieces belonging to Public Works, City Hall, Police Department, Fire Department/EMS, and Port & Harbor.

The Building Maintenance Technicians are

responsible for maintenance and miscellaneous repairs to all City buildings and also supervise the janitorial staff.

Public Works maintains records on all City facilities and issues all rights-of-way permits, including utility, driveway, and water/sewer permits. Public Works reviews all plats and storm water plans and oversees the construction of new subdivisions. This Department also manages and inspects capital project construction.



*Public Works Superintendent Jan Jonker completed his 17th year with the City of Homer in 2008.*

## 2008 ACHIEVEMENTS

Public Works finished coordinating the design and initiated construction of a new water treatment plant in 2008. The existing plant, which uses traditional pressure filters, was over 30 years old and had at times struggled to meet summer demand and the new more stringent drinking water regulations promulgated by EPA. The new plant, built immediately adjacent to the existing facility, utilizes modern membrane treatment equipment that will produce drinking water that greatly exceeds the new standards.

The plant will meet the growing water demand anticipated from future growth of the community. It is expected to produce 2 million gallons of water per day and is easily expandable to produce 3 million gallons per day when needed.

Construction began in the spring of 2008 and continued through the summer, with building foundation work, gravel pad construction, and the installation of site work piping. The pre-engineered metal building was erected in the fall. The building was enclosed and heated by November to allow interior work to be completed through the winter months. The membrane treatment equipment was installed inside the structure as the building shell was being completed and process piping, electrical, and mechanical work began as

the full force of winter shut down all outside work.

Public Works continued to coordinate the design, permitting, and easement acquisition for the Kachemak Drive Water and Sewer project (Phase II), which will provide service to 80 lots. The project, expected to begin in 2009, is designed to minimize impacts to wetlands and not contribute to bluff erosion.

Other achievements in 2008 included the repair, sandblasting and application of a new interior coating of the 750,000 gallon Spit Water Storage Tank; approval of three large private residential



*Parks and Recreation summer workers remove protective cages from mountain ash trees.*

subdivision project designs and the inspection of the initial phases of construction; completion of the paving of Soundview Avenue to connect existing residential areas; replacement of the Spit Fish Grinder Station electrical control panel; and the re-striping of the cross-walks along Pioneer Avenue. Public Works employees installed the City's first automatic water main flushing facility near the airport, continued to replace manual-read water meters with remote-read meters, and helped establish energy consumption and cost information for all City buildings and facilities.

ity near the airport, continued to replace manual-read water meters with remote-read meters, and helped establish energy consumption and cost information for all City buildings and facilities.



*Significant work was completed on a new water treatment plant in 2008.  
Top left: The foundation concrete pour begins.  
Top right: The steel frame is erected.  
Bottom left: Interior view of state-of-the-art membrane water treatment equipment.  
Bottom right: Building exterior nears completion in December.*



# Police Department

The Homer Police Department utilizes community-based policing along with proactive enforcement to keep Homer a safe and healthy community.

In 2008, the Department received 7,532 requests for service, up 24 percent from 2006. However, arrests (516 total) were down 10 percent from the previous year.

The Department operates and maintains a 7-bed state contract jail facility. Prisoners can be held up to 10 days. In 2008, prisoners served a total of 1020.5 days in the Homer Community Jail, down 20 percent from 2007. Property crimes (437 in 2008) were down slightly from the previous year. The number of violent crimes (79) was up slightly.

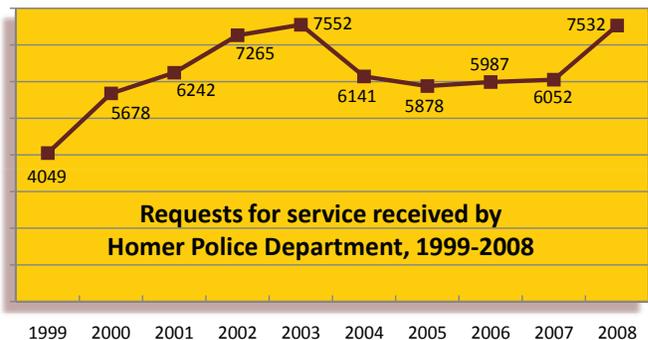
New developments in 2008 included the hire of two enforcement aides who provide extra help in the summer, with a particular focus on the beach from Bishop's Beach Park to the end of the Spit. They also assist with Spit parking matters.

Other personnel changes in 2008: Erin Pealater and Mike Swearingen were hired; Paul Clark transferred from Dispatch to Jail; and Alex Douthit, Barth Troughton, and Wayne Stanley left the HPD.

In the Dispatch section, a new tsunami sirens activation terminal was installed. Sirens can



Technology has taken multi-tasking in Dispatch to a whole new level. In 2008, a tsunami sirens activation terminal, borough-wide 911 system, and locator system utilizing cell phone towers were put into place, greatly enhancing public safety.



## Crosswalks

*Drivers* **Please Watch**

*Pedestrians* **Please Use**

Let's make sure everyone has a

### GREAT & SAFE Summer

A message from the Homer Police Department

This print ad was used throughout the summer of 2008 as part of a public awareness campaign aimed at improving pedestrian safety in Homer.

be activated locally or borough-wide. A more advanced and connected 911 system was also installed, linking Homer Dispatch with dispatch centers in Soldotna, Kenai, and Seward. If one 911 center is overwhelmed due to a major incident, other centers can answer to assist as needed. Phase II 911 was also activated, which allows dispatchers to determine location within 50 meters of a cell phone caller. All dispatchers were trained extensively on the use of the new equipment.

HPD officers also received extensive training in 2008, including pistol, rifle, and shotgun training, AED, CPR, HazMat, and OSHA training, defensive tactics, moving/stationary RADAR training, sex crimes investigation, and highway lifesavers training.

# Homer Public Library

2008 was a busy year for the Homer Public Library. The library is fortunate to have strong volunteer support from Friends of the Homer Library (FHL) and the Library Advisory Board (LAB). Activities in 2008 included the following:

- A community-wide survey was conducted that resulted in a great deal of positive feedback plus suggestions for improvement.
- FHL sponsored many free public programs including book discussions, writing groups for teens and adults, computer classes for seniors, a bike workshop, a community entrepreneur contest, and a Scrabble tournament.
- FHL raised money through the sale of a new children's ABC book written by Ann Keffer and illustrated with images of Lynn Marie Naden's alphabet art tiles in the children's library.
- 2,345 babies, toddlers, and preschoolers attended Baby Lapsit and weekly Story Hour programs.
- Community groups held 208 meetings in the library's meeting room.
- Over 1,090 new library cards were issued.
- Representative Paul Seaton presented the library with a rare 49-star flag in honor of Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood.
- The LAB formed a subcommittee to assist with the procurement of a large library sign at the corner of Hazel and Heath Street.
- The LAB's new Library Art Selection Subcommittee created an exhibit application and solicited proposals from local artists for the library's rotating art exhibit program. The program got off to an exciting start with the long-term loan of an original Machtetanz painting.
- During the Summer Reading Program, "Catch the Reading Bug @ Your Library," 41 juveniles logged more than 45 hours of reading, compared to 3 juveniles who reached that milestone six years before.
- The City Council approved one new part-time Library Aide, which was filled first by Debra Waldorf and then by Holly Aderhold.
- Christian Black moved out of state; his full-time Library Technician position was filled by Debra Waldorf.



Photos, top to bottom: 1) Derek Reynolds of Cycle Logical presents a bike tune-up workshop outside the library in May 2008. 2) Arthur Griffith reads in the Homer Public Library's fireplace lounge during "Invisible Ink." 3) Staff from the Imaginarium Science Discover Center present reptiles, including a crowd-pleasing snake, to an audience in the Joy Griffith Children's Library in October 2008.

# Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Homer's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a 6-year guide for capital project expenditures. City administration, department heads, advisory boards and commissions, City Council members, non-profit organizations, and the general public are all encouraged to provide suggestions for the CIP. In 2008, the City Council revised the CIP development process to reflect more realistic projections about when a project is likely to be undertaken. This reduced the active CIP list to 47 projects, compared to 60 in 2007. "Long-range" projects were moved to the Appendix.

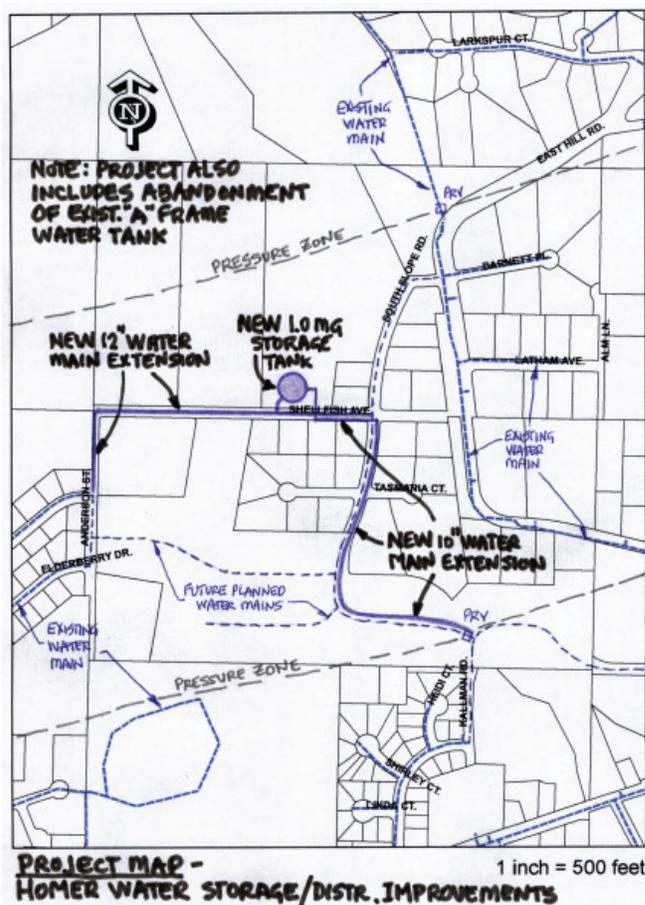
The City Council was pleased to note that funding for the following projects from the 2008-2013 CIP had been identified or procured:

- Ben Walters Park Improvements - dock repair
- Communications Systems Upgrade - HVFD
- Fire Engine 4 Replacement
- Reber Trail
- South Peninsula Hospital Helistop
- Water Treatment Plant
- Williamsport-Pile Bay Road Rehabilitation

At its October 27 meeting, the Homer City Council approved Resolution 08-108(A) adopting the Capital Improvement Plan and naming 15 projects to the FY 2010 legislative priority list:

- Alternative Water Source
- Sewer Treatment Plant Bio-solids Treatment Improvements
- Harbor Float Replacement/Ramp 3 Gangway and Approach
- Port & Harbor Building
- East Boat Harbor
- Spit Trail Completion/Harbor Pathways
- Fire Engine 4 Refurbishment
- Deep Water Dock Expansion
- Firefighting Enhancement - Aerial Truck
- Skyline Fire Station
- Karen Hornaday Park Improvements
- Town Center Infrastructure
- Fire Pump Testing Trailer
- Water Storage/Distribution Improvements
- Main Street Reconstruction/Intersection

A sixteenth project, Kachemak Bay Tidal Power, was added later.



Ramp 3 Replacement and Water Storage/Distribution Improvements were added to the Capital Improvement Plan in 2008. Both projects were also identified in the FY 2010 legislative request.

# Charts and Graphs

## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	Governmental	Business-type	Total
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash and investments	\$ 6,049,596	-	6,049,596
Receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts:			
Accounts	-	461,109	461,109
Sales and property taxes	1,168,404	213,397	1,381,801
State and federal grants	49,532	6,747,063	6,796,595
Assessments	561,882	3,294,289	3,856,171
Litigation Settlement	-	100,000	100,000
Other	385,582	-	385,582
Internal balances	5,066,203	(5,066,203)	-
Inventory	73,272	261,691	334,963
Prepaid items	280,629	96,715	377,344
Restricted cash and investments	-	3,273,434	3,273,434
Bond issuance costs, net	-	5,331	5,331
Capital assets not being depreciated - land and construction in progress	9,767,345	24,385,237	34,152,582
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	35,637,713	53,027,795	88,665,508
Total assets	<u>\$ 59,040,158</u>	<u>86,799,858</u>	<u>145,840,016</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Accounts payable	434,876	1,514,900	1,949,776
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	175,227	77,945	253,172
Accrued interest	-	32,123	32,123
Prepaid rentals and deposits	-	660,923	660,923
Deferred revenue	38,653	18,000	56,653
Noncurrent liabilities:	-	-	-
Deferred lease revenue	-	342,000	342,000
Due within one year:			
Accrued leave	90,116	42,413	132,529
Notes payable	36,741	604,367	641,108
Bonds payable	-	178,893	178,893
Capital lease obligations	21,046	63,554	84,600
Due in more than one year:			
Accrued leave	412,383	310,285	722,668
Notes payable	1,492,541	10,962,834	12,455,375
Bonds payable, net of deferred loss	-	-	-
Capital lease obligations	6,703	32,166	38,869
Net pension obligation	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>2,708,286</u>	<u>14,840,403</u>	<u>17,548,689</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>			
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	43,848,027	65,571,218	109,419,245
Restricted:	4,334,477	7,677,436	12,011,913
Unrestricted	8,149,368	(1,289,199)	6,860,169
Total net assets	<u>56,331,872</u>	<u>71,959,455</u>	<u>128,291,327</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 59,040,158</u>	<u>86,799,858</u>	<u>145,840,016</u>

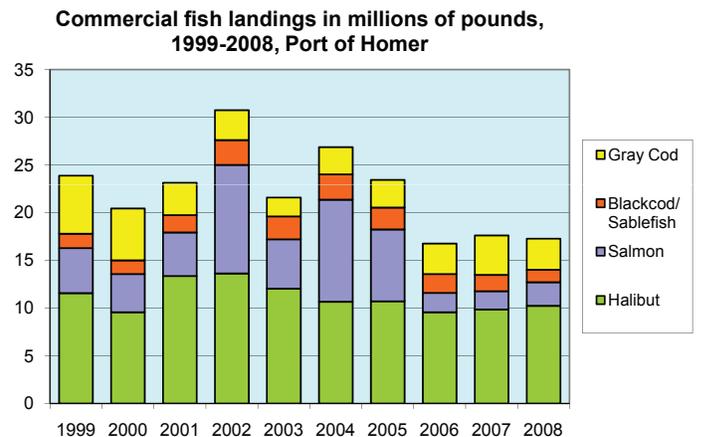
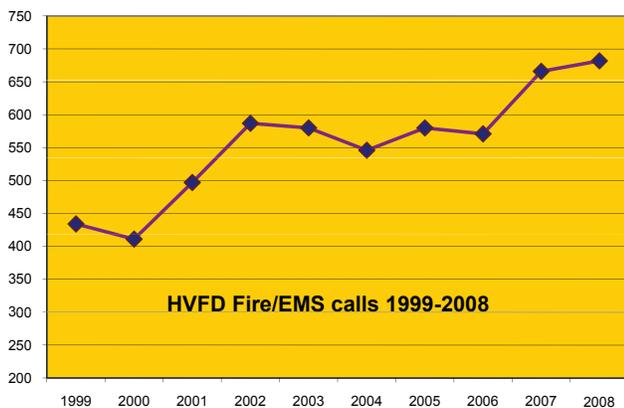
Other charts and graphs can be found on the next few pages and interspersed throughout this report.

# Charts and Graphs (continued)

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets		
		Fees, Fines & Charges for Services	Operating Grants & Contributions	Capital Grants & Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
<b>Governmental:</b>							
General government	\$ 1,761,505	116,606	-	334,585	(1,310,314)	-	(1,310,314)
Public safety	4,546,766	317,835	597,564	-	(3,631,367)	-	(3,631,367)
Public works	2,637,639	34,715	92,097	311,897	(2,198,930)	-	(2,198,930)
Library	890,800	499,189	7,657	-	(383,954)	-	(383,954)
Airport	233,176	169,196	-	-	(63,980)	-	(63,980)
Parks and recreation	494,083	157,264	-	-	(336,819)	-	(336,819)
Community services	321,970	27,058	54	100,321	(194,537)	-	(194,537)
Unallocated interest	141,014	-	-	-	(141,014)	-	(141,014)
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<b>11,026,953</b>	<b>1,321,863</b>	<b>697,372</b>	<b>746,803</b>	<b>(8,260,915)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8,260,915)</b>
<b>Business-type:</b>							
Port and harbor	4,529,886	3,288,715	-	-	-	(1,241,171)	(1,241,171)
Water and sewer utility	5,820,558	3,023,126	-	4,571,058	-	1,773,626	1,773,626
<b>Total business-type activities</b>	<b>10,350,444</b>	<b>6,311,841</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,571,058</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>532,455</b>	<b>532,455</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,377,397</b>	<b>7,633,704</b>	<b>697,372</b>	<b>5,317,861</b>	<b>(8,260,915)</b>	<b>532,455</b>	<b>(7,728,460)</b>
<b>General revenues:</b>							
Property taxes					\$ 2,976,794	-	2,976,794
Sales taxes					6,334,758	1,266,790	7,601,548
Grants and entitlements not restricted to a specific purpose					811,206	183,707	994,913
Investment income					156,429	209,177	365,606
Legal settlement					-	16,660	16,660
Transfers					(30,000)	30,000	-
Special Item - Wirte off of NPO					1,099,216	514,438	1,613,654
<b>Total general revenues and transfers</b>					<b>11,348,403</b>	<b>2,220,772</b>	<b>13,569,175</b>
<b>Changes in net assets</b>					<b>3,087,488</b>	<b>2,753,227</b>	<b>5,840,715</b>
<b>Beginning net assets</b>					<b>53,244,384</b>	<b>69,206,228</b>	<b>122,450,612</b>
<b>Ending net assets</b>					<b>\$ 56,331,872</b>	<b>71,959,455</b>	<b>128,291,327</b>

\*Source: 2008 City of Homer financial audit. Figures assume City uses "full accrual" method of accounting.



**ENTERPRISE FUNDS OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES, 1999-2008**

<b>WATER/SEWER</b>										
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Income	2,904,326	2,965,967	2,827,881	3,182,957	3,381,882	3,669,118	3,790,311	3,995,870	4,308,622	4,556,099
Expense	3,579,218	3,412,497	3,388,164	3,778,902	3,912,304	4,234,615	4,634,055	4,769,717	5,317,887	5,806,734
Net Operating Income	(674,892)	(446,530)	(560,283)	(595,945)	(530,422)	(565,497)	(843,744)	(773,847)	(1,009,265)	(1,250,635)

<b>PORT &amp; HARBOR</b>										
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Income	2,559,902	2,558,558	3,039,385	2,804,523	3,086,706	2,814,618	2,657,188	3,290,912	2,934,787	3,432,076
Expense	3,249,466	3,040,130	3,031,769	3,070,372	3,614,622	3,690,097	3,908,985	4,116,522	4,442,536	4,516,062
Net Operating Income	(689,564)	(481,572)	7,616	(265,849)	(527,916)	(875,479)	(1,251,797)	(825,610)	(1,507,749)	(1,083,986)

<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>										
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Income	5,464,228	5,524,525	5,867,266	5,987,480	6,468,588	6,483,736	6,447,499	7,286,782	7,243,409	7,988,175
Expense	6,828,684	6,452,627	6,419,933	6,849,274	7,526,926	7,924,712	8,543,040	8,886,239	9,760,423	10,322,796
Net Operating Income	(1,364,456)	(928,102)	(552,667)	(861,794)	(1,058,338)	(1,440,976)	(2,095,541)	(1,599,457)	(2,517,014)	(2,334,621)

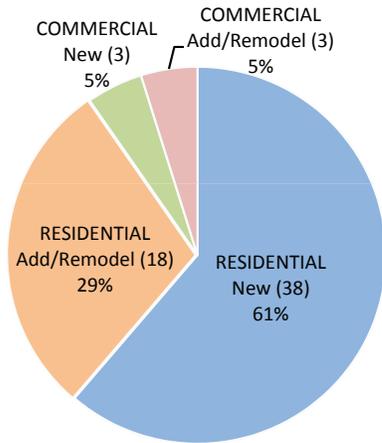
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE YEARS 1999-2008**

Year	Gen Fund Rev Budget	State Assistance Programs	Taxes	Licenses Permits	Chrg for Svc	Other Intergovt <sup>1</sup>	Investment Income	Other	Total
2008	12,091,082	754,369	8,043,417	26,219	2,337,323	618,536	63,429	666,790	12,510,083
2007	10,549,363	847,559	7,440,149	43,765	2,382,465	634,877	89,191	35,116	11,473,122
2006	9,009,441	-	6,922,637	46,096	2,136,838	618,404	53,775	219,839	9,997,589
2005	8,012,189	-	6,195,352	42,717	2,183,048	765,957	30,419	35,980	9,253,473
2004	7,270,018	-	4,607,060	88,411	2,028,181	547,114	9,002	38,169	7,317,937
2003	6,931,421	84,470	4,361,019	18,930	1,991,495	621,195	13,571	36,321	7,127,001
2002	6,570,377	168,493	3,962,127	17,000	2,045,851	615,549	45,387	35,577	6,889,984
2001	5,700,146	154,773	3,504,746	12,520	1,393,570	659,843	83,189	111,419	5,920,060
2000	5,656,878	170,420	3,382,688	10,042	1,326,039	660,087	174,395	25,044	5,748,715
1999	5,378,807	355,322	3,327,801	143,271	1,527,933	29,889	160,919	-	5,545,135

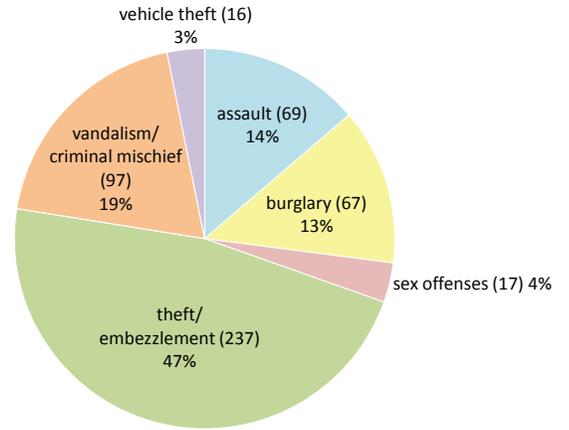
Note: State assistance in 2007 and 2008 consisted of \$544,922 Municipal Energy Credit and \$302,637 PERS Relief.

# Charts and Graphs (continued)

**Number and percent of zoning permits issued, by type, 2008**



**Number and percent distribution of major offenses Homer Police Department - 2008**

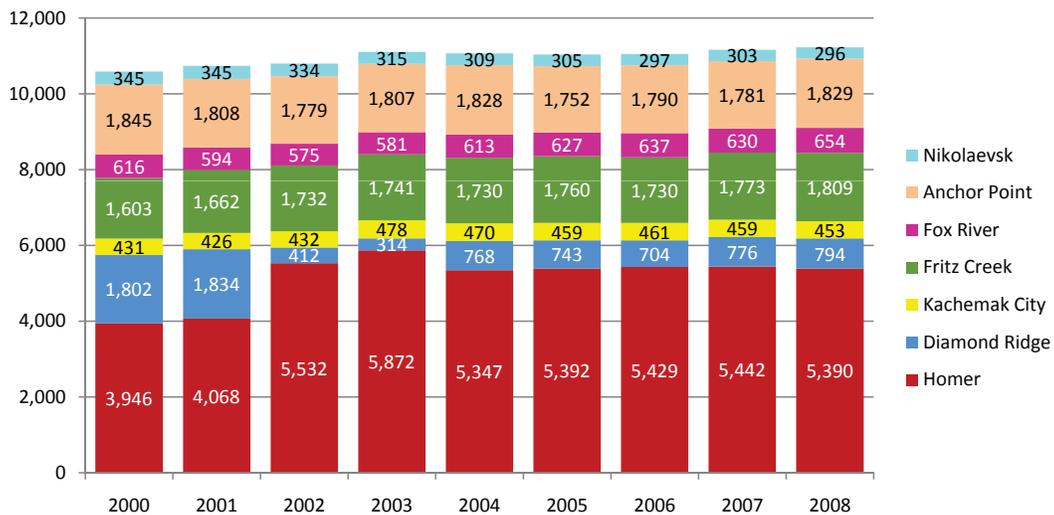


**CITY OF HOMER ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND COSTS, 2006-2008**

Year	Elec. usage (kWh)	% change in elec. usage from previous year	Elec. costs	% change in elec. costs from previous year	Fuel deliveries (gallons)	% change in fuel delivered from previous year	Fuel costs	% change in fuel costs from previous year
2006	5,532,813		\$717,587		75,543		\$188,786	
2007	5,816,270	5.12%	\$756,405	5.41%	75,523	-0.03%	\$192,997	2.23%
2008	5,869,487	0.91%	\$833,651	10.21%	76,174	0.86%	\$284,823	47.58%

NOTES: Electrical data was initially compiled by Homer Electric Association. Totals are for all City HEA accounts. Fuel totals are for all City fuel oil and propane tanks that service buildings. They do not include the fuel island tanks and the equipment fuel tank at Public Works. All data is preliminary.

**Population of Homer and Neighboring Census Areas, 2000-2009**



Notes: Homer annexed part of Diamond Ridge and all of Miller's Landing in April 2002. (Miller's Landing is not shown in this graph. It had a population of 70 before annexation.) Year 2000 population is from the 2000 U.S. Census. Population figures for 2001-2008 are estimates provided by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

# Quick Facts and Figures

Date of Incorporation ..... March 31, 1964  
 Area in Square Miles ..... 15 sq. mi. of land and  
 10.5 sq. mi. of water

City Population\* ..... 5,390  
 Borough Population\* ..... 52,990

City Employees ..... 102 full time; 11 part time

## Public Works (including Parks & Rec)

Miles of streets maintained ..... 46.9  
 Miles of water distribution line ..... 42.4  
 Miles of maintained wastewater line ..... 49.2  
 Water usage (millions of gallons) ..... 137  
 Water customers ..... 1,406  
 Vehicles and heavy equipment maintained ..... 110  
 Campground use  
 (RV and tent nights) ..... 8,840  
 Park acres maintained ..... 285.86  
 Miles of trail maintained ..... 5.03

## Public Safety (Police and Fire)

Fire Dept. volunteers ..... 38  
 Combined Fire/EMS calls ..... 682  
 Requests for police services ..... 7,532  
 Arrests ..... 516  
 Days of jail time served ..... 1,020.5  
 Animals turned in or impounded ..... 415  
 Animals adopted ..... 211  
 Animals euthanized ..... 115

## Port & Harbor

Small boat harbor stalls ..... 920  
 Dock landings (not including state ferry)  
 Deep Water Dock ..... 173  
 Pioneer Dock ..... 52  
 Tons of ice sold ..... 3,776  
 Crane hours billed or metered ..... 2,700  
 Public, Fire, EMT, and Police Assists ..... 143

## Planning

Construction permits issued ..... 62  
 Construction value ..... \$23,168,200

## Public Library

Library volumes ..... 42,812  
 Library circulation ..... 99,511

Attendance ..... 132,402  
 Volunteer hours ..... 1,620

## City Clerks Office

Meetings attended ..... 145  
 City Council ordinances, resolutions, and  
 memoranda processed ..... 345  
 Public records requests processed ..... 205

## Finance

Grants managed ..... 28  
 Leases managed ..... 30  
 City mill levy (property tax) ..... 4.5  
 Borough mill levy ..... 6.5  
 Kenai Peninsula College mill levy ..... .0.1  
 South Peninsula Hospital mill levy ..... 1.75  
 City sales tax ..... 4.5%  
 Borough sales tax ..... 3.0%  
 City Assessed Value

Real property ..... \$609,308,462  
 Personal property ..... \$24,988,891

## City Tax Receipts

Property tax ..... \$2,980,981  
 Sales tax ..... \$7,601,548

## City Long Term Debt

General obligation bonds ..... \$0  
 Revenue bonds ..... \$185,000  
 USDA notes payable ..... \$1,529,282  
 Capital leases ..... \$246,692  
 Notes payable ..... \$11,567,201  
 Authorized but not issued ..... \$1,321,590

*\*Population figures are estimates provided by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.*

CITY OF HOMER VEHICLE USE, 2006-2008				
Year	Miles	% change in miles from previous year	Hours*	% change in hours from previous year
2006	341,172		4,587	
2007	340,190	-0.29%	4,805	4.75%
2008	364,647	7.19%	4,564	-5.02%

\*NOTES: Either miles or hours (not both) are reported for each vehicle. Heavy equipment use is measured in hours rather than miles. Data was initially compiled through the Public Works preventive maintenance program. All data is preliminary.

# Phone Numbers

## City of Homer Departments

CITY HALL ..... 235-8121  
491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Water & sewer billing questions ..... ext. 2240  
Planning Department ..... 235-3106  
City Clerk ..... 235-3130

PUBLIC WORKS ..... 235-3170  
3575 Heath Street

Parks & Recreation ..... 235-3170  
City street maintenance questions ..... 235-3170

POLICE DEPARTMENT ..... 235-3150  
4060 Heath Street

EMERGENCIES ..... 9-1-1

Animal Shelter ..... 235-3141

FIRE DEPARTMENT ..... 235-3155  
604 W. Pioneer Ave.

EMERGENCIES ..... 9-1-1

PORT & HARBOR ..... 235-3160  
4350 Spit Road

Billing questions ..... 235-8121 ext. 2240

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY ..... 235-3180  
500 Hazel Avenue.

## Other Frequently Called Numbers

Alaska Islands & Ocean Visitor Center ..... 235-6961

Alaska State Ferry ..... 235-8449

Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center: ..... 235-7740

College (Kachemak Bay Campus) ..... 235-7743

Dept. of Motor Vehicles ..... 235-7341

District Court ..... 235-8171

District Recorder ..... 235-8136

Division of Family & Youth Services ..... 235-7114

Homer High School ..... 235-8186

Pool ..... 235-7416

Community Schools ..... 235-6090

Homer News ..... 235-7767

Homer Tribune ..... 235-3714

Kevin Bell Ice Arena ..... 235-2647

Kenai Peninsula Borough ..... 1-800-478-4441

Homer office ..... 235-8840

KBBI ..... 235-7721

Legislative Information Office ..... 235-7878

Post Office ..... 235-6129

Pratt Museum ..... 235-8635

Public Health programs ..... 235-8857

Solid Waste Baling Facility ("The Dump") ..... 235-6678

South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services .. 235-7701

South Peninsula Hospital ..... 235-8101

South Peninsula Haven House ..... 235-7712



2008 4th of July parade

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